

A message from the president

R ecently I've been reflecting on our college mission. It is important that we continually question what we are doing and how well we are meeting our community's expectations.

In the words of John F. Kennedy: "Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into bene-



fit for everyone and greater strength of the nation." Pretty lofty stuff ...

but history bears it out: when a people, a community, focus

Dr. Frank Toda_{clearly} on the power

of human potential, great things happen. Therefore, in order to translate our collective hopes and dreams into tangible benefits, our college is focusing on increasing opportunities for student success while providing new, exciting instructional offerings, all with a renewed commitment to the communities we serve.

Independent accreditation will be important step in our journey toward excellence and self-sustaining performance. By seeking independent accreditation, we have fully committed to a culture of continuous improvement, accountability and transparency. The accreditation standards not only test us against tough benchmarks of excellence, but verify that we have in fact met our community's expectations. If we are able to accurately identify and de-



Above from left: Olga Bishop, Laura Davidson, Hillary Coy, Jared Langdon and Brianna Shain. Facing page, photos from top: Christina Baghdanov; Savannah Jones and Amanda Holste; Jesse Trosper and Kathy Darnielle; Jonatan Morales, Alyssa Pearce and Josue Jimenez.

liver upon those expectations, we will truly make a difference in our Columbia Gorge community's economic and social fabric.

This past year witnessed many milestones. These included record growth in enrollment, revision of the college's Academic Master Plan, student and staff achievement, civic partnerships, expansion of our endowment and national recognition for our Renewable Energy Technology program, just to name a few.

Yet these vital steps toward independent accreditation only tell part of the story. You'll find details on these and other highlights of 2011 in this Annual Report to our constituents. We encourage your comments, thoughts and ideas. After all, Columbia Gorge Community College would not exist if it weren't for you, the residents of the Mid-Columbia region. Now and always, we are here to serve you. We begin each day with that responsibility in mind, and we end it with reflections of how we could be better. We welcome your guidance, and we treasure the trust you have placed in us.

Thank you! Dr. Frank K. Toda President

Introduction and welcome

College directors, mission and values

Our Core Values:

• Respect for the Individual

• Community Focus

IntegrityExcellence

• Commitment to Learning

Service Before Self

Our College Mission:

Columbia Gorge Community College builds dreams and transforms lives by providing lifelong educational programs that strengthen our community.

Our Vision as an Institution: Become the first option of choice for education and training in the communities we serve.

> 2011-12 Board of Education: Charleen Cobb, Chair Dr. Ernie Keller, Vice-Chair Charlotte Arnold

Dave Fenwick M.D. Van Valkenburgh Stu Watson Dr. James Willcox

Welcome and appreciation

Welcome, Charlotte Arnold

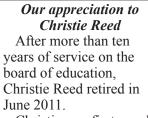
Charlotte Arnold joined the board of education in July 2011 representing Hood River County, where she was born and raised. She attended Oregon State University and received a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from Portland State University in 1972.



Charlotte Arnold

Charlotte has had a diverse career as a teacher, dance instructor, business owner, marketing director and fashion consultant. She founded Mid-Columbia School of Dance Arts (now Columbia Gorge Dance Academy) in 1975, and she continues to teach students of all ages.

Charlotte's husband, Richard, was formerly the Hood River County surveyor and director of Public Works. They have been married 40 years and are especially proud of their three grown children, each of whom has multiple degrees and successful careers. CGCC is pleased to welcome Charlotte to the board.



Christie was first an ad hoc member of the board when Hood River was annexed into the college district, and then was elected to two



Christie Reed

four-year terms. Christie has a passion for continuing education in our community, and this commitment was evident in her time on the board. Christie's vision and leadership helped drive CGCC to accomplish many key milestones, including the decision to seek independent accreditation, establishing the nursing program, developing the renewable energy technology program, constructing the Health and Sciences Building in The Dalles, constructing the Hood River-Indian Creek Campus, as well as countless other college and community-focused projects.



Peer evaluators visit campus

Team offers guidance toward 2013 decision By Dr. Susan Wolff Chief Academic Officer

Columbia Gorge Community College has been contracting with Portland Community College for its accreditation status since the college was created. In 2006, the college began work toward becoming independently accredited, receiving candidacy status from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities in 2008.

The commission sent a team of six peer evaluators April 27-29, 2011 to review the college against the commission's standards for the purpose of evaluating the college's progress toward independent accreditation. The event in April was the third such visit and part of a five-year process leading to independent accreditation.

Prior to the visit, the college completed and submitted a self-evaluation report and supporting documentation to the commission and team. Results from the visit include the following set of commendations and recommendations.

Commendations and Recommendations

Columbia Gorge Community College is clearly making consistent, meaningful progress toward independent accreditation. Much has been accomplished, much work is ongoing, and much remains to be finished.

The following commendations and recommendations reflect the evaluation committee's overall assessment of CGCC's strengths and primary challenges in those efforts.

Commendations

1. The evaluation committee commends Columbia Gorge Community College for its innovative, data-driven approaches to providing early intervention advising strategies to ensure student re-



College staff, faculty and board host accreditation team evaluation in April 2011. Tria Bullard photo

tention, persistence and completion. Multiple survey data resources have informed the development of a variety of strategic support processes for new students, including Group Orientation, North Star, and PASS intrusive advising appointments.

2. The evaluation committee commends Columbia Gorge Community College for its broadbased and sincere commitment to the institution's mission, students, community, and sense of campus cohesion. At every level, the people of CGCC exhibit an inspiring level of collective pride, pos*itive energy, and engagement in the work of the college.*

3. The evaluation committee commends Columbia Gorge Community College for its on-going, active engagement with local community organizations, government agencies, business and industry, and school districts to respond to the educational, workforce development, economic, and social needs of its five-county community.

Continued on following page

Recommendations guide progress

Continued from page 4

4. The evaluation committee commends the college's trustees, staff, faculty and participating community members for their unified enthusiasm and outstanding efforts in pursuit of independent accreditation, which they clearly seek as a means of fulfilling the college's mission and for the good of the communities the college serves.

Recommendations

1. While acknowledging that Columbia Gorge Community College has been pro-active in developing core themes that directly reflect its mission, the evaluation committee recommends that the college move ahead with its plans to refine its core theme objectives, develop meaningful and relevant measures for those objectives, and integrate the core theme assessment process with the college's overall planning and evaluation mechanisms.

2. Noting that Columbia Gorge Community College has made progress in its educational assessment efforts, the evaluation committee nonetheless recommends that it take urgent and immediate action to assess learning outcomes at the course, program, and degree levels, with careful attention to the systematic collection and analysis of relevant data and the use of assessment results to improve teaching and learning.

3. Columbia Gorge Community College has moved closer to a comprehensive faculty evaluation system that includes post-probationary and adjunct faculty, as evidenced by the adoption of evaluation systems for these groups in the most recent collective bargaining agreement. The evaluators recommend that the college takes the appropriate, immediate next steps toward full implementation of these evaluation processes for all faculty groups.



At right, Jeff Wagnitz, vice president for academic affairs at Highline Community College, Des Moines, Wash., addresses CGCC staff and faculty during the NWCCU accreditation team visit in April 2011. Above, the visit concluded with breakfast in the Lecture Hall.

Tria Bullard photos

4. While recognizing that Columbia Gorge Community College remains in the process of becoming independent of Portland Community College and its policies and procedures, the evaluators recommend that CGCC develop and approve its own set of self-governing policies and procedures that would take effect if and when it becomes fully self-reliant. The evaluators further recommend that the college determine how its official policies and procedures will be made consistently available as appropriate to the college's constituents. Candidacy status has already resulted in the college granting financial aid to students beginning Summer 2011 and the library being completely independent of the Portland Community College Library since December 2010.

The college has already made significant progress toward fulfilling the four recommendations and has begun planning for an April 2013 visit which will lead to the Commission's decision in July 2013 to grant independent accreditation status. Additional details are available on the college website, www.cgcc.cc.or.us.

Nursing and Health Occupations

Highlights 2010-11 Academic Year

By Doris Jepson

Director, Nursing and Health Occupations

Nursing program

Columbia Gorge Community College's Nursing Program is approved by the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN). Students enrolled in nursing courses have the option of applying for co-admission to Linfield College's RN-to-BSN program. This allows students to take online courses at Linfield College while enrolled in CGCC's nursing program and to continue toward a BSN after graduation. The Rural Clinical Simulation Center continues to be used extensively to provide valuable clinical experiences to nursing students.

Graduates:

• Twenty students completed the first year of the program. When all CGCC degree requirements are met they are eligible to receive their PN Certificate and take the NCLEX-PN exam for licensure. Ken Niezgoda was recognized as the winner of the Florence Nightingale Award by his peers.

• Fifteen students completed the second year of the program. All will receive their Associate of Science Degree in Nursing and are eligible to take the NCLEX-RN exam for licensure. Amanda Schecter was recognized as the winner of the Florence Nightingale Award by her peers.

• Since the program's inception we have graduated 164 associate degree nurses.

Health occupations

Special Mention: Marjean Kempel, Nursing Assistant Program Director, retired at the end of spring term after 11 years of service to the community through CGCC. Thank you, Marjean!

Nursing Assistant (CNA1 / CNA2) & Certified Medication Aide. Susan Hartford is program director. This program is approved by the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN). Students



completing courses this year: CNA1 - 53; CNA2Acute Care - 21.

Medical Assisting (MA) Program. Diana Lee-Green is program director. This program is approved by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education (CAAHEP) and graduates are eligible to sit for the national AAMA (CMA) exam. Eleven (11) students received their Medical Assisting Certificate.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Clay McCrea is program coordinator. This program is approved by the State of Oregon. We had one student who graduated with his EMT Certificate and we are very proud of him. Students completing EMS classes —118.

Other Health Occupations Classes Offered in 2010-11:

• MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY – 169 students

• American Heart Association Certified Training Center: From left, CGCC students Christina Glissmeyer, Ben Zimmerman, Kristie Mitchell and Cameron Rogers. CGCC's healthcare occupations program prepares students for nursing and other careers in the fast-changing healthcare field.

Michal Kawka photo

• CPR/FIRST AID/INSTRUCTOR (non-credit classes) – @ 2,200 cards.

• FIRST AID & EMERGENCY CARE (HE 112; credit class) – 88 students.

• HEALTHCARE INTERPRETER TRAINING (non-credit class) – 11 students.

• ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD (non-credit class) – 22 students.

Note of appreciation

Thank you to our friends and community partners for your continued support to our programs — providing guidance though advisory committees, funds to support programs, in-kind faculty, clinical sites, and scholarships. Our Nursing & Health Occupations programs could not continue without this support.

Not only are you helping us provide important training but you are providing jobs for our graduates.

Thank you!

Renewable Energy Technology

By Abby Brown RET Program Adviser

The Renewable Energy Technology (RET) program at Columbia Gorge Community College was one of the first three in the nation to receive an American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) Seal of Approval, demonstrating alignment with wind technician skill-sets identified by industry.

The program trains students for a variety of occupations in renewable energy technologies, such as wind, solar and hydro.

Graduates

Thirty-three students completed the RET Certificate program. Eleven attained Highest Honors with a 3.75 to 4.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA). Thirty-two students completed the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Renewable Energy Technology. Ten achieved Highest Honors with a 3.75 to 4.0 cumulative GPA.

Donations and New Technology

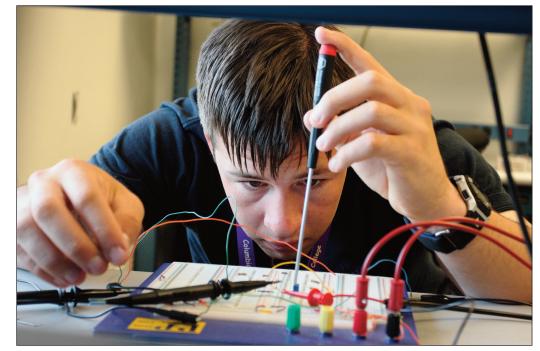
A V-27 training nacelle was purchased with a U.S. Department of Energy grant. Students dismantle and reassemble this nacelle to better understand wind turbine mechanics.

Skyron Systems donated a used vertical axis turbine. This turbine – transported and assembled with U.S. Department of Energy funds – supplements electricity on campus.

RET Student Internships, Jobs, and Experiences

Six wind-energy and manufacturing companies participated in an RET Job Fair held in October 2010, and 75 students attended.

Six students attended WINDPOWER 2011 – a national wind energy conference hosted by AWEA in May 2011. Two students volunteered, and one received a full scholarship from Women of Wind Energy.



Former renewable energy technology student Jared Langdon practices building an electrical circuit.

Michal Kawka photo

Two students received internships with Granite, and two received internships with GE during the summer of 2011.

White Creek Wind Farm, located near Bickleton and operated by NAES, has provided a wind turbine tower climb test to 60 RET students since May 2011. NAES presents the only opportunity for students to climb a commercial wind turbine.

RET Communications

Three RET Info Sessions, in September 2010 and May 2011, provided information to more than 45 potential students.

Delta Energy Club, a student club, organized and hosted a Focus the Nation / Clean Energy Forum in February. The forum described clean energy options for the Columbia River Gorge.

Numerous RET information packets were distributed to area high schools, and a CGCC

adviser visited high schools to talk about renewable energy. More than 11 high schools toured the RET program.

A video highlighting benefits of wind farms in Klickitat County and associated wind training was created by Siemens and Cannon Power Group: http://bit.ly/fZFkrp.

Appreciation

This program would not be possible without the support of many partners, such as the Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone, the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Advisory Committee and many industry partners. Our faculty deserves special recognition for providing high-quality education and training to create a skilled workforce.

One RET faculty member, Jim Carlin, received the college-wide Faculty Excellence Award for 2010-11.

Pre-College; Oregon Learning Standards

By Dave Mason

Director, Transfer and Pre-College Programs

Pre-College and ESOL Programs

Columbia Gorge Community College's Pre-College Program serves several types of students. One group is composed of those who are pur-

suing their GED (Basic Skills and GED). Another group of students took the college placement test and scored below the entry level for writing and/or reading skills (college prep).

The English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students are working on English language and "civics" skills.

The Literacy Tutoring program matches volunteer tutors with students needing additional services, or others who are not enrolled at CGCC.

The following is a profile of students served in 2010-11:

Program	Total Number of Students		Completed Level		Completed GED	
	TD	HR	TD	HR	TD	HR
College Prep.	61	34	21	8		
Basic Skills	51	10	11	1		
GED	86	22	21	3	30	13
ESOL	53	236	13	54		
Literacy Tutoring	6	20	2	6		
14 Literacy students are duplicated in either College Prep or ESOL.						
College Prep. Students have a diploma/GED but not at college level reading/writing/math						
Basic Skills students are not at GED level in reading/writing/math						



English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students benefit from a variety of instructional programs at CGCC.

Michal Kawka photo

Statewide initiatives

In this past year Columbia Gorge Community College was involved in a statewide initiative, Oregon Learning Standards.

Each of Oregon's Adult Basic Skills (ABS) Learning Standards is presented through a Learning Standards Framework, which provides detailed information on performance levels defined by the National Reporting System, as well as any additional levels needed for transition into postsecondary education and training. CGCC participation included the director and faculty from both the Pre-College and ESOL programs. They attended trainings and learning circles, and have begun changing the curriculum to reflect this research-based approach to instruction.

The Oregon Learning Standards are aligned with recently-adopted national standards (see below).

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices

(NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). These standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs.

Here are the standards:

• Are aligned with college and work expectations;

• Are clear, understandable and consistent;

• Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills;

• Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards;

• Are informed by other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and

• Are evidence-based.*

* From the U.S. Department of Education

Small Business Development Center

By Mary Merrill

Director, Small Business Development Center

The Small Business Development Center at Columbia Gorge Community College is one of 19 SBDCs across Oregon, most of them located on community college campuses. SBDC Columbia Gorge serves entrepreneurs throughout the Mid-Columbia region.

It was established in 1984 by the Treaty Oak Community College Service District, precedessor to Columbia Gorge Community College.

Special Mention

The Small Business Development Center at Columbia Gorge Community College has been recognized by the Small Business Administration as a leader in the State of Oregon and in the fourstate region of SBA Region X. The SBDC has received several other commendations including recognition from Oregon's former Governor, Ted Kulongoski, and the Oregon Small Business Development Center Network as a State Star, and recipient of the Sandy Cutler Award.

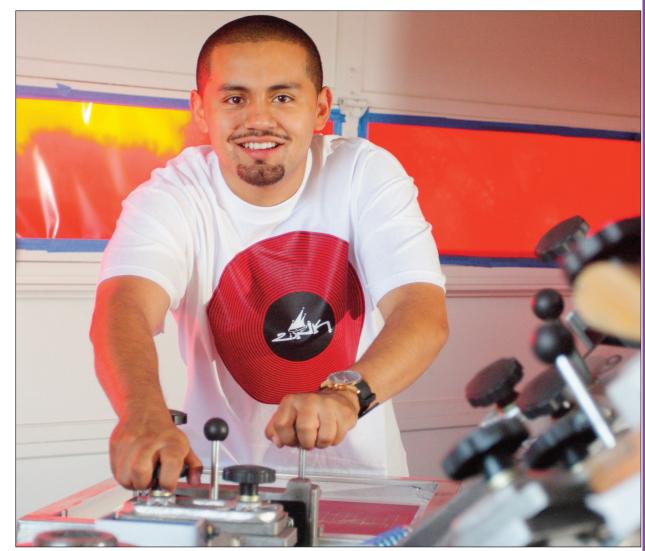
The SBDC is recognized because of its performance as measured through the results it obtains by helping businesses start and grow in the Columbia Gorge Region.

Performance Outcomes

For the calendar year 2010, the SBDC served 257 businesses. Staff delivered 765 counseling hours, created 54 jobs through business expansion or startups, helped secure \$1,522,500 in loans for business expansion or startup, and helped 14 new businesses start. The SBDC also helped secure \$535,000 in SBA guaranteed loans.

The SBDC is staffed by one full-time director, one half-time administrative assistant and one half-time business counselor/instructor.

For the year-to-date calendar year of 2011, the SBDC has served 258 businesses, delivered 775 counseling hours, created 40 jobs through busi-



Israel Ayala Guevara owns an apparel printing business. His obtained his Associate of Science Oregon Transfer Degree in Business Management and honed his skills at the Small Business Development Center. Michal Kawka photo

ness expansion or startups, helped secure \$460,288 in loans for business expansion or startup, and helped 22 businesses start.

The SBDC has assisted some notable clients and successes, including Cascade Acupuncture

Center, LLC, in Hood River and The Dalles, and the beautiful Maupin Market, in Maupin.

For information, please call (541) 506-6121, or visit the website, www.cgcc.cc.or.us/sbdc

Child Care Partners

Child Care Resource & Referral of Gilliam, Hood River, Sherman, Wasco and Wheeler counties

By Nancey Patten

Child Care Partners Coordinator

A very special recognition goes to Ruth Lusk. Ruth retired in July 2010 after 19 years as coordinator of Child Care Partners. Ruth's dedication and commitment to child care and education are greatly appreciated.

During the 2010-11 program year, Child Care Partners expanded to begin serving Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler counties. This expansion resulted from the consolidation of Child Care Resource & Referral service districts state-wide. Work in these counties included an early childhood mini-conference, technical assistance and support on enrolling in the Oregon Registry, Environmental Rating Scale training for Commission on Children and Families directors, mandatory trainings on site, and technical assistance in support of the Oregon Program of Quality project.

Child Care Partners is now providing bilingual services to parents and providers on a part-time basis. The addition of a Child Care Partners page on the CGCC website is also expanding our outreach. Work on a new website is near completioni, with launch this fall or early winter.

The first annual Early Childhood Mini-Conference arrived in March 2011 in Sherman County. Enrollment was full, with a waiting list. Attendees included family child care providers, certified family child care providers, center staff, preschool staff, Early Intervention/ Early Childhood Special Education staff and Head Start staff with representation from each of the five counties in the service delivery area.

It was a great day with lunch, door prizes and eight hours of training.

Early Education and Family Studies Discovery



Early Childhood mini-conference participants held in Sherman County in March 2011 included, from left: Connie Brown, Marie Mallory, Nancy Catlin, Virginia McKay and (standing behind) Stephanie Brown. Nancey Patten photo

Day, a collaboration between Child Care Partners and Columbia Gorge Community College Student Services, also occurred in March.

The goal was to encourage child care providers and high school students to continue their professional development through the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program. In the morning, participants obtained information about financial aid, scholarships, the ECE program, time management, and the Oregon Registry. The day ended with an introduction to ECE classes by Ronda Hull, ECE instructor.

Enrollment for the class filled quickly and 10 people were placed on a waiting list.

The event was so successful that there is a plan

to have a second Discovery Day during Spring term 2012.

2010-2011 Providers served

• Providers served with technical assistance, referrals, support and mentoring: 130

• Providers trained: 203 participants received training at 46 trainings

2010-2011 Parents served

• 213 families received referral services in 2010-2011

For information on Child Care Partners, call (541) 506-6131 or visit the website, www.cgcc.cc.or.us/ccp

Transfer Programs; Distance Learning

By Lori Ufford Director, Advising and Career Services

Highlights 2010-2011 Academic Year

Transfer Programs: Lower Division Collegiate (transfer) courses make up roughly 48 percent of the full-time equivalent enrollment (FTE) generated by Columbia Gorge Community College. Transfer programs allow students to complete the first two years of a bachelor's degree at Columbia Gorge before transferring to a university. This option saves the student a significant amount of money in tuition and living expenses.

Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer (AAOT): This degree is accepted by all Oregon University System schools as a "package." All courses which make up the degree will be accepted by the university, allowing the student to begin his/her university work at a junior standing.

• In spring term 2011, 210 students were working on an AAOT degree;

• 35 students graduated with an AAOT degree in spring 2011.

Associate of Science Degree (AS): The AS degree allows students to prepare for entry into specific fields such as pre-medicine, pre-engineering and pre-veterinary sciences.

• 92 students were taking classes toward an AS degree in spring 2011;

• 26 students received an AS degree at the 2011 graduation ceremony.

Associate of Science Oregon Transfer Degree (ASOT) — Business: This degree is for students seeking entry into an Oregon University System. Like the AAOT, this degree will allow the student to begin at a junior standing.

• 30 students in spring term were taking classes toward an ASOT-Business degree;

• Two students graduated with this degree in spring 2011.

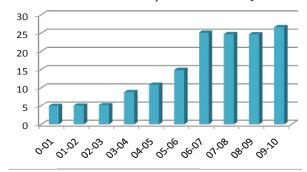
Early College: CGCC is working with Condon

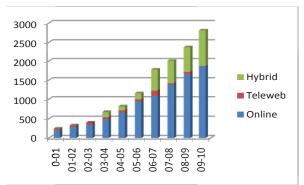
Distance Learning at Columbia Gorge

By Paula Ascher

Distance Learning and Instructional Technology Coordinator

The percentage of credit classes that are hybrid or online had risen to 27 percent as of July 2011.





and Arlington schools in this innovative program, which allows high school students planning on university to complete the AAOT degree during their junior and senior years at no cost to the student. Classes meet requirements for the CGCC degree as well as high school diploma requirements. Classes are delivered in a hybrid format, combining online instruction, face-to-face instruction, and academic advising.

Costs are paid by North Central Education Service District.

At the same time, student success compared to on-ground classes held steady for the past four years. One to two percent of students were more successful in hybrid classes, and three to six percent were less successful in fully online classes.

The Quality Matters (QM) Program at CGCC was initiated in an effort to increase the quality of classes, which affects the student success rate. A peer-to-peer program began in winter term 2011, in which nine qualified faculty reviewed online and hybrid classes.

Eight faculty members completed the "Applying the Quality Matters Rubric to Your Course" training in the spring term of 2011, bringing the total to 31 trained in using the QM rubric. So far, five CGCC online courses have been nationally recognized by a formal panel, and are noted in the schedule of classes with the official Quality Matters logo.

The student headcount in distance learning continues to rise: Of students who completed the Online Learning at Columbia Gorge Community College 2011 student survey, 42.9 percent were taking their first online class, 31.7 percent had taken an online course at another college or university, 91.3 percent reported access to broadband at home, and 95.2 percent lived within commuting distance of the college.

Transfer Tours: In a new effort to aid transfer, CGCC offered transfer tours to students in the 2010-11 academic year. This project provided students the opportunity to tour Portland State University and Oregon State University. Transportation and advising were provided by CGCC. Twelve students participated in the tours. Advisors and students alike felt these tours were very beneficial to helping them better understand the transfer process.

This project was funded by a grant.

Academic Master Plan update

Columbia Gorge Community College is updating its Academic Master Plan using a process of small focus groups with regional workforce sectors and community and education partners.

Each group is asked to provide input regarding the assets, opportunities, challenges, and aspirations of the college to be addressed for the next three to five years.

Other key elements are the identification of new and the review of existing academic programs (credit, non-credit, contracted and customized training, and adult education) and college services.

Following these meetings, a broader section of the regional communities is being invited this fall to review information that has been gathered to expand, confirm, or guide what has been heard for the completion of the plan.

The final plan will provide the foundation for the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan and update of the college's Facilities Master Plan.

Current demographic information will be included from the local school districts, college, and the most recent census data.



The college's Academic Master Plan guides long-term instructional strategies.

Michal Kawka photo

State and local economic and workforce development partners will provide key data and information as will regional employers and local citizens.

Core Themes: Measuring What We Treasure

It's one thing to say you're doing a good job. It's another thing to prove it with data.

The quest for measurable data is part of Columbia Gorge Community College's greater quest for independent accreditation, and this past year college faculty, staff and community volunteers worked to identify data sources and benchmarks for success in three broad categories.

Those themes – opportunities, education and partnerships – derive from the institution's mission statement: "Building dreams and transforming lives by providing lifelong education programs that strengthen our community."

The data gathered will demonstrate whether

and how the college is meeting its mission.

Core Theme A, "Opportunities," aligns with "Building Dreams." Some of the objectives include ensuring that educational programs meet regional needs, offer varied methods of delivering instruction, and serve the region's diverse demographic population.

Core Theme B, "Education," aligns with"Transforming Lives." Objectives include ensuring that instruction meets the region's career, industry and institutional transfer requirements, and that programs support student goals and needs, among other criteria.

Core Theme C, "Partnerships," aligns with

"Strengthening Our Community." Among the objectives here are ensuring the college cultivates productive business and industry relationships, and maintains good community relationships.

Each objective comes with its own set of measures, data sources for those measurements, and benchmarks or numeric goals for determining achievement. These will form the basis for the first "cycle of improvement," as the institution evaluates and analyzes results, then identifies subsequent actions.

And then the measures begin again, in a continual process of assessment extending far into the future.

Campus Sustainability

Climate Commitment brings strategies, critical deadlines

By Kayleen Warner-Arens

Campus Sustainability Coordinator

On Dec. 1, 2010, Columbia Gorge Community College's president, Dr. Frank Toda, committed to reducing and eventually eliminating all of the college's global warming emissions. By signing the American College & University President's Climate Commitment, he joined the leaders of 677 other institutions across the country.

The President's Climate Commitment is the first effort by any major sector of society to seek climate neutrality – not just reduction.

This undertaking was inspired by efforts like the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, the U.S. Climate Action Partnership and other collective efforts by states and businesses.

Presidents agreed to eliminate net greenhouse gas emissions in a reasonable time as determined by each institution. This involves:

• Setting up a mechanism within two months to guide the process;

• Completing an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions in one year, and creating and implementing a climate action plan within two years;

• Taking two of seven tangible steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while the more comprehensive plan is being developed;

• Integrating sustainability into the curriculum and making it part of the educational experience;

• Making the action plan, inventory and periodic progress reports publicly available.

The Green Purchasing and Green Building policies adopted by the Board of Education in May 2011 represent the two tangible steps selected for implementation. The policies reflect best practices of other colleges and universities; they meet the intent of the Climate Commitment and demonstrate CGCC's commitment to sustainability. The Green Purchasing policy has been broadened myriad sustainable issues.

Green Purchasing Policy

The goal of this policy is to reduce the environmental impact of the college's purchasing decisions by assigning environmental and social considerations in equal weight to other considerations such as price, availability and performance when making a purchasing choice.

Guidance is given to energy, water, toxins and pollutants, bio-based products, forest conservation, recycling, packaging, landscaping and food.

Green Building Policy

This policy demonstrates a commitment to the environment, economic and social stewardship, realizes costs savings through reduced operating costs, and provides healthful environments for students, faculty and staff.

Columbia Gorge Community College Learning Garden

The Learning Garden at The Dalles campus started as a pilot project to encourage gardeners to meet the following goals:

• Increase students' access to fresh, local, sustainable and nutritious fruits and vegetables;

• Beautify the campus and create a safe, communal gathering place;

• Foster student leadership;

• Foster entrepreneurial skills and forge business-community ties by marketing and selling



Anya Kawka bikes on The Dalles campus. Michal Kawka photo

surplus produce;

•Provide students with valuable work experience in agriculture and horticulture;

• Build strong community ties and increase social interaction and civic participation;

• Encourage student self-reliance;

• Increase self-esteem, self-confidence, and education of students;

• Promote healthier communities;

• Demonstrate the benefits of organic farming and environmentally sound horticultural practices;

• Provide teachers and students a resource on ecological systems, garden care, landscaping principles, watering and plant maintenance.

Ultimately, the Learning Garden will comprise 1,000-2,000 square feet

of gardening space and feature drip irrigation, more raised planter beds, an outdoor classroom, storage shed, rain collection system and compost demonstration area.

The college's newly-reformed Environmental Club hopes to figure strongly in the coordination of events at the Learning Garden. Partnerships with Oregon State University Extension are being established to engage volunteers in the education, building and planting efforts.

The CGCC Foundation Board approved \$1,025 for the Learning Garden on May 4, 2011.

National Guard Readiness Center







Modern armories are designed to fit their communities. Here are several current facilities in Oregon, demonstrating the diversity of architectural styles.

Photos courtesy Oregon Military Department

The Oregon Military Department first proposed replacing its obsolete armory in The Dalles nearly 15 years ago. Today, that project is finally on track, following approval of federal and state construction funding in 2011 and design funds appropriated by Congress in 2008.

The present armory was constructed in the 1950s at Sixth and Webber streets in The Dalles on property owned by Wasco County. The site is valuable commercial property which, if sold or leased, would generate revenue for the county.

In February 2008 Columbia Gorge Community College executed a long-term property lease with the Oregon Military Department to place the facility on seven acres of the college's 62-acre campus in The Dalles.

The old armory will be replaced here with a modern, energy-efficient "readiness center" focused on technology-based training. The campus location will provide the college with additional classrooms in the readiness center, and will help ease the transition of returning troops into the civilian workforce through convenient access to the college's education and workforce training opportunities.

The \$17 million, 46,000-square-foot structure will include an expanded drill floor that can host college activities such as commencement. The

new facility will be used to help attract regional conferences, large trade shows and other activities that can make use of community facilities around the city.

In addition, the readiness center will complement the college's designation in 2004 as Oregon's First Responder training center.

The Oregon Military Department will submit a site plan for review by the city planning commission this winter. That plan will help determine such issues as building design, parking and exterior lighting. Construction is anticipated to start in late winter or spring 2012, with completion in 2013.

Hood River Greenway, Workforce Bldg.

By Dan Spatz

Chief Institutional Advancement Officer

Strategic planning is crucial to any successful organization, and an on-going priority at Columbia Gorge Community College.

As it plans for future growth, the college is working with its community partners on two projects, one in Hood River and a second in The Dalles. Here is an overview:

Hood River Greenway

This is a partnership project with the City of Hood River, Hood River County, Hood River Valley Parks & Recreation District, Hood River Watershed Group, and other organizations.

Through terms of an intergovernmental agreement signed in February 2011, the city, county and parks district are working with the college on several public priorities, including long-term property expansion for the college's Hood River-Indian Creek Campus, the development of affordable workforce housing in Hood River, outdoor recreation and education, and restoration of natural habitat along Indian Creek. The project also would provide the college with additional options for future classroom construction.

The greenway project would bring these priorities together within a single strategic framework centered on economic development, which in addition to job creation needs to ensure an attractive quality of life. Outdoor recreation and restoration of natural habitat are important aspects of this, and thus are also reflected in the greenway project.

For instance, the Hood River Watershed Group has already provided important assistance to the college in helping remove debris from Indian Creek, and by restoring streamside vegetation.

Hood River Valley Parks & Recreation constructed a walking trail through the campus along Indian Creek; here, visitors learn about restoration efforts thanks to interpretive signage in-



Indian Creek Trail, constructed and maintained by Hood River Valley Parks & Recreation District, crosses the college's Hood River campus. Dan Spatz photo

stalled by the watershed group.

And the entire corridor serves as an outside classroom for college students, ranging from environmental science and field ecology to art instruction.

Workforce Innovation Center

In January 2011 Columbia Gorge Community College's Renewable Energy Technology program became one of the first three training initiatives in the United States formally recognized by the American Wind Energy Association's "Seal of Approval" for wind technician instruction.

While wind technician training continues to provide a core focus of this program, the curriculum also prepares students for careers in hydroelectric, solar, geothermal and renewable fields. Other potential areas of emphasis may include transmission, grid-tie, and smart grid technologies.

More broadly, the program's emphasis upon math and electronics prepares students for a wide range of other occupations, such as production and process technology.

The training space itself must be flexible enough to accommodate such diversity. When it comes to preparing for the workforce skills of tomorrow, change is the only constant: new technologies demand the ability to adapt, to learn new skills and new ways of thinking.

With this in mind, the college is working to consolidate the various classrooms and labs currently assigned to renewable energy training within a single facility, a new Workforce Innovation Center on The Dalles campus. Beyond renewable energy, the facility will provide the physical flexibility needed to accommodate training for current industrial skills jobs and the workforce skills of tomorrow.

Like the Hood River greenway project, the workforce building will reflect a regional strategy of economic development by integrating instruction with economic and environmental sustainability. For instance, the building's "green" design could provide hands-on training for future occupations encompassing such technologies as solar arrays, geothermal heating, advanced control systems and energy efficiency.

The State of Oregon will provide bonding capacity of up to \$8 million to help construct this facility, subject to a dollar-for-dollar matching requirement by January 2013. The college is working with regional partners, public and private, to secure that match.

Commitment, courage bring rewards

Renea Whitney

Associate of Applied Science Administrative Assistance

Many student stories at Columbia Gorge Community College ring of perseverance and growth, and Renea Whitney's story is no different. Renea was raised in rural Oregon. She loved camping, crabbing, and hunting with her family. In high school, she excelled in studies and sports, and

served on Student Council.

Renea was in the perfect position for college, but she couldn't afford to attend. Instead, she married her high-school sweetheart.

Her young marriage changed her trajectory.

"As a wife and mother, I did what most women do and put their husbands and children before their own

Renea Whitney Michal Kawka photo

dreams and aspirations. I Michal Kawka photo took care of my family and followed my husband wherever he went," she said.

They were married 12 years, she raised a son, and she worked a variety of "dead-end jobs" to survive. Not until her divorce and her son's own college graduation did Renea focus on her future. Renea wanted to attend Columbia Gorge Community College to obtain an Associate of Applied Science degree in Administrative Assistance. Being an older student, she was a little intimidated over her return to classes, but – as in high school – Renea was still an exemplary student.

"I am very proud of myself for getting straight A's over the last three terms," she notes.

Renea wants to use her education to work as an Administrative Assistant in a field that can help other people, such as the state's Department of Human Services.

GeGe Villalobos

Associate of Applied Science Early Education and Family Studies

The struggles of life would not keep this mother of a toddler from achieving her dreams.

GeGe Villalobos had a unique childhood. She grew up on a 5,000-acre farm about an hour from Columbia Gorge Community College. She loved the ranch life – riding horses on cattle drives,

making butter and canning vegetables; she had dreams of growing up to be a rural veterinarian.

She briefly attended community college after high school, but a tumultuous domestic relationship interfered with her studies. GeGe ended that relationship and worked a variety of service-sector jobs. She happily remarried and had a young boy.

"I was a stay-at-home mom for two years, and I needed to finish the degree that I started working on many years before," she said.

After the birth of her child, she realized she loved to care for children as much as she loved animals. She re-enrolled for a degree in Early Education and Family Studies. Community college classes have helped her obtain a position with Mid-Columbia Children's Council as a Childcare Assistant. After graduation with her Associate of Applied Science degree she would like to apply for an Associate Teacher position.

"I would like to take a short break from college, and then work on my bachelor's in education," she explains.

Student profiles by Abby Brown

Liz & Martina Kokos

Associate of Applied Science Renewable Energy Technology

One mother's dedication to her education in renewable energy inspires her daughter to pursue the same field.

Liz Kokos worked for 15 years in Special Education, and she was ready for a change. Liz returned to classes, studying Renewable Energy

Technology (RET) at Columbia Gorge Community College. She soon interned at a nearby wind farm.

"I was able to take my classwork to the field, and my fieldwork to class," she said. This internship led to a full-time position with a utility company at the same wind farm.

GeGe Villalobos

Michal Kawka photo

the same wind farm. "Somewhere along the line," she says, "there was a Bring Your Daughter to Work Day." Liz brought her daughter – Martina Kokos – and her

a Bring Your Daughter to Work Day." Liz brought her daughter – Martina Kokos – and her employer allowed them to climb 250 feet up a wind turbine. "The first time they were able to get me up tower, I was hooked," states Martina.

Soon after, Martina enrolled in Renewable Energy Technology. She was invigorated by the coursework: "The electrical and digital classes challenged me and made me crave more." Martina completed the two-year RET degree and also received a summer internship. An engineering degree will be next. In the meantime, she is studying calculus ... for fun.

"I am living my life as best as I can," she said. "I take each and every day in stride. I live for today! Yesterday is gone forever, and there is no guarantee about tomorrow. I am reaching for the stars, and no one can tell me the one I want is too far out of reach!"



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Profiles

achieveme

Miller Challenge raises \$300,000

This year marked the third and final "Miller Challenge" to Oregon's 17 community colleges, a statewide scholarship initiative which, in the case of Columbia Gorge Community College Foundation, generated a total of \$300,000 for student scholarships.

Since announcing its challenge in 2008, The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation provided \$1,500,000 to support students attending Oregon community colleges. Each college needed to match the challenge dollar-for-dollar.

Thanks to the generosity of its donors, Columbia Gorge Community College Foundation met the challenge each year. Donations came from many sources: individuals, companies, industry partners, and organizations.

One group deserves special attention: Kemp Lodge 181, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in Odell, which contributed \$25,000 to the college foundation early in 2010 ... then followed with a second \$25,000 contribution late that same calendar year. The contributions were instrumental in allowing the foundation to meet the Miller Challenge in 2010 and 2011.

Dr. Frank Toda, college president, recognized Kemp Lodge with a Foundation Compass Club "True North Award," the first time he had bestowed this on any donor.

Although the Miller Foundation's scholarship challenge has now concluded, the foundation's support for Oregon's community colleges continues. Miller Foundation representatives have been working closely with staff from all 17 community colleges in Oregon to consider other means of encouraging students to complete their first two years of college. Details on this initiative, focused on student success, retention and completion, are now in the final stages of development.

The Miller Foundation, created in 2002 by a bequest from James F. (Jimmy) Miller, has assets of approximately \$200 million and is focused on arts and education in Oregon. Thus far it has

Three join foundation board

Columbia Gorge Community College Foundation welcomes three new members to its 22-person board:

Martha Dell

Martha Dell earned a Bachelor of Science in elementary and special education from State University of New York, and a Master of Arts in reading education from Towson University, Maryland. She worked seven years as an elementary teacher in Maryland, then moved to the Columbia Gorge

with her family in 2007 and worked at CGCC in human resources. Currently, Martha enjoys staying home to care for her family, including her one-year-old son, Owen, and husband, Christian.

Erin Ford

Erin Ford grew up in The Dalles. She graduated from The Dalles High School in 1993 and Linfield College in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science in business. Erin competed on the college swim team and received All-American awards.

After college, Erin moved to Columbus, Ohio, while her husband, Dave, was in medical school.

She worked at Nationwide Insurance during this

granted more than \$62 million to organizations throughout the state. Mr. Miller began his career in Portland with the investment firm, Blyth & Co. (which later became Paine Webber and then UBS Financial Services). He rose to become time but found a passion for competing in triathlons. This passion evolved into a serious racing career of training and competing professionally.

Erin and Dave have returned to The Dalles with their one-year-old son, Sammy. She works as a trainer at Water's Edge but spends most of her time caring for her family. She enjoys riding her bike and running. The family also likes to camp, raft and hike.

Dr. John Copp Dr. John Copp is department chair of business and social sciences at CGCC. He has a Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University in New York City.

He earned a bachelor's degree in history and astrophysics from Michigan State University; master's degrees

in political science from Columbia University and in Russion history from Portland State University; and a doctorate in political science from Columbia University.

Dr. Copp has taught history and political science for more than 20 years in New York City and at various colleges in the Northwest. He teaches a variety of history and political science classes on histories of various parts of the world.

He has extensive experience as a consultant and guest lecturer on Soviet Affairs, politics and history. He has taught for CGCC for the past 10 years, and he is a current Instructional Council member.

president of Blyth & Co. in New York in the early 1960s. He returned to Portland in 1998 where he made generous gifts to numerous arts and educational organizations before his death in 2002.





2011 proves eventful year for Foundation

Major Gifts Officer Stephanie Dawkins joins CGCC Foundation

Dear Mid-Columbia Community Members:

I would like to introduce myself as the Major and Planned Gifts Officer for Columbia Gorge

Community College Foundation. I am a native of Corbett and I am excited to return to the beautiful Columbia River Gorge.

Through the Foundation, I will be working to raise resources for student scholarships at Columbia Gorge Community College, in keeping with our mission of "Building Dreams, Trans-

forming Lives." With your



Stephanie Dawkins

help, we will continue to improve the lives of individuals and families, support business growth, and promote the quality of life in our Mid-Columbia region.

I look forward to meeting you and learning about ways we can work together to better the lives of people in our community. Please feel free to call or email with any questions about Columbia Gorge Community College Foundation. I would be more than happy to visit with you.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Dawkins

Major and Planned Gifts Officer

Columbia Gorge Community College 541-506-6113 (office) 503-706-0777 (cell) sdawkins@cgcc.cc.or.us

Scholarships

The secret behind our thriving scholarship program lies within the charitable hearts of friends and associates who are fulfilling students' dreams with donations to CGCC Foundation. A combination of several gifts provided \$120,496 in scholarships to 75 students enrolled in the CGCC Nursing Program, Renewable Energy Technology program, and other credit courses in the 2010-11 school year.

"Founder's Cup" Golf Tournament nets \$15,000

Columbia State Bank of The Dalles and Hood River hosted the CGCC Foundation 12th Annual Founder's Cup golf tournament at Indian Creek Golf Course on August 6, 2011.

The event drew 116 golfers and a fleet of volunteers from the community.

Proceeds from the 2011 Founder's Cup and after-tournament raffle drawings raised \$15,543 for the CGCC Foundation Scholarship Fund.

Contributing sponsors and tourney boosters were Columbia State Bank, Dr. Frank K. Toda, DLR Group, C. H. Urness Motor Co., NW Natural, Papa Murphy's Pizza, CB Financial Services, The Dalles Chronicle, Steve & Patty Burnet, Dennis & Ellen Whitehouse, enXco. Iberdrola Renewables. Portland General Electric, Todd Construction, Wasco County Landfill, Carter Orchards, CenturyLink, Charles Toole, Consumer Cellular, Design Structures, Anne Bialous, Google, Hire Electric, Insitu, Mid-Columbia Medical Center, Providence Hood River, Rowe & Deming, Windermere Glenn Taylor Real Estate, Bill Fashing, The Beresford Company, Thursday Twilight Golf League, M. D. VanValkenburgh, Kevin Hashizume, Vestas, Northern Wasco County PUD, Lyle Style, Food Services of America, AniChe Cellars, Bolton



THE BERESFORD COMPANY (above) and Thursday Twilight League teams earned first place trophies in Columbia Gorge Community College Foundation's 12th Annual Founder's Cup Golf Tournament at Indian Creek Golf Course on August 6. From left: Tad Richards, Ron Hitchcock, Jason Beam and Nita Posada.

Dan Spatz photo

Cellars, Domaine Pouillon, Dry Hollow Vinevards, Ouenett Winery, White Buffalo Wine Bar & Bistro, Copa Di Vino, Wy'East Vineyards, Allison Bailey, Bi-Mart, Char Lavender & Mike Kaplan, Christian & Martha Dell, Crestline Construction, Franz Bakery, Bill & Darlene Marick, Divots Restaurant, Donella & Marv Polehn, Dr. Susan Wolff, Frank Salerno, Full Sail Brewing Co., Hood River Coffee Co., CB Financial Services, Louie Buzas Photography, Mark & Jean Ewald, Patti Blagg, Mike's Bakitchen Bakery, Nobody's Business & Trophies, Pamela Hill, Rage Graphix & Design, Randy Dodd & Safeway, The Optimist Printers, Wheat Springs Bakery, Dan & Michele Spatz, and Indian Creek Golf Course.

Follow the foundation on Facebook!

Endowment Fund, Compass Club

Here's how you can make a difference for students, today and tomorrow

By Stephanie Dawkins

Major & Planned Gifts Officer

The permanent endowment fund at Columbia Gorge Community College Foundation allows you to make a difference, today and tomorrow. The CGCC Foundation general endowment fund is used to support the area of greatest need at the college.

An endowment gift is the most important longterm investment you can make at the college. This gift will contribute to the future growth of the college, and most importantly, the academic success of its students forever.

There is no minimum amount for making donations to the CGCC Foundation general endowment fund. These gifts are added to the overall CGCC Foundation general endowment investment pool. However, the recommended minimum amount to establish your own named scholarship endowment is \$100,000. Income from your named endowment fund is used for purposes decided by you, the donor.

The CGCC Foundation general endowment fund, established in 2009, reached more than \$144,000 in 2011 after \$60,000 was added to the endowment fund from unrestricted donations received from individuals and businesses.

As part of receiving a Title III grant that includes an endowment match challenge, the federal government will match up to \$40,000 into the CGCC Foundation general endowment fund each year for five years. The foundation reached its \$40,000 match in the first grant year, 2010-11.

Please contact Stephanie Dawkins, Major and Planned Gifts Officer, at (541) 506-6113 or sdawkins@cgcc.or.us if you would like more information on contributing through an endowment. For more information on endowments and estate planning, you may also visit the foundation website at www.gorgefoundation.org.



CGCC Foundation recent scholarship recipient Michelle Cochran. Michal Kawka photo

Compass Club will bring community connections throughout region

Columbia Gorge Community College "Compass Club" is a free membership organization of CGCC Foundation. This is a region-wide club with three purposes:

1. To expand public awareness and appreciation for Columbia Gorge Community College across our region;

2. To encourage student enrollment throughout the college's five-county service area;

3. To support college foundation fund-raising to benefit students, programs and facilities.

The foundation envisions local chapters of the Compass Club in every community our college serves, throughout the Mid-Columbia. Compass Club volunteers can help with such activities as:

• Identifying student success stories and working with college staff to highlight these individuals in publications;

• Working with people in local high schools to encourage awareness of college programs among high school students;

• Organizing community events such as volunteer appreciation days and "fun-raising" activities such as chili cook-offs, mountain bike races, and ski nights;

• Establishing connections with businesses and industries to identify workforce training needs and communicating these needs to college staff for future program planning;

• Establishing liaisons in every community in the region in order to create a personal network for community and college outreach;

• Assisting the college mentoring coordinator by identifying opportunities to extend mentoring

in local high schools and communities;

• Supporting fund-raising activities of CGCC Foundation by encouraging participation in the annual Founder's Cup Golf Tournament, as well as other annual and on-going fund-raising activities that support student scholarships, college programs and facility development.

The college needs your help in achieving its mission of "Building Dreams, Transforming Lives."

Please consider becoming one of our outreach volunteers.

If you are interested in helping through the Compass Club or would like more information, please contact Steph Dawkins at sdawkins@cgcc.cc.or.us or (541) 506-6113.

Planned Giving: Investing in Our Future



By Stephanie Dawkins Major & Planned Gifts Officer

In September 2010, Columbia Gorge Community College received a Title III grant from the U.S. Department of Education. One of the college's goals in this grant is to start a planned giving program.

CGCC Foundation realizes the importance of planned giving and how an established program can ensure the college's well-being for years to come, advancing and promoting the interests and developments of the college, its students, programs, and community.

The Foundation describes a planned gift as a gift received as a part of a thoughtful plan. It is a gift that often involves a benefit for both the college and the donor.

Planned giving enables a donor to arrange charitable contributions in a manner that maximizes his or her personal objectives while mini-

CGCC Foundation accepts the following types of gifts:

- Cash
 Tangible personal property Securities
 Real Estate
- Remainder Interests in Property
- Oil, Gas, Mineral Interests, Timber, Crops
 - Bargain Sales
 Life Insurance Charitable Gift Annuities

 - Charitable Lead Trusts
 - Retirement Beneficiary Designations • Bequests
- Life Insurance Beneficiary Designations

mizing tax costs. In particular, it can reduce or eliminate estate and gift taxes. Charitable giving can be a part of a sensible estate plan, involving a number of tools that result in a larger inheritance for heirs.

An estate planner can recommend planned gifts to the CGCC Foundation, which welcomes chari-

Prakash. Michal Kawka photos

table trusts, outright gifts of securities, real estate and tangible personal property, and bequests.

On behalf of Columbia Gorge Community College, CGCC Foundation offers a variety of giving opportunities in support of scholarships, programs, faculty, facility improvements, and unrestricted resources to foster growth and excellence.

If you have already included CGCC Foundation in your estate plans, please inform us so we are better able to plan for the future. In addition, we appreciate the opportunity to express our gratitude and welcome new members to the CGCC Foundation Legacy Society.

Those who wish to remain anonymous will have their preference respected.

If you are interested in learning more about CGCC Foundation's Planned Giving Program, please contact Steph Dawkins, Major and Planned Gifts Officer, at (541) 506-6113 or sdawkins@cgcc.cc.or.us.